

HONORING FERNANDO "CHITO"
SALINAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Fernando "Chito" Salinas for his dedication and contributions to the City of Laredo and South Texas.

Mr. Salinas was born in 1924 in Laredo, Texas. "Chito", as he was known by friends, attended Christen Junior High School and later graduated from Martin High School in 1942. After he graduated, he attended Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He transferred to Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he pursued a medical career. However, he found that his true calling was in fashion and retail. After moving back to Laredo, he helped his father run the family retail business, Los Dos Laredos. In 1952, Mr. Salinas opened his own store, Don Antonio's Men's Wear. After a brief trip to Europe in the 1960s, Mr. Salinas added the Castilian room to Don Antonio's that would specialize in high-end styles and hats. He was known both locally and internationally for the quality of clothes, but especially for the unique hats that his store carried. Mr. Salinas would travel regularly around the world to fashion hot spots, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Europe, to bring high-end fashion back to southern Texas.

Aside from his impact on the fashion industry in Laredo, Mr. Salinas started the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust in 2005 to benefit Laredo and Webb County. This Trust was designed to provide funding to charitable programs around Laredo and has made donations to over 75 different charitable organizations and government agencies. Mr. Salinas had a commitment to improve his community, especially its education, religion and health programs. The Trust has made it possible for the youth in Laredo to go to college through the scholarship portion and also provided healthcare services to the underserved. Javier B. Santos, trustee for the Salinas Trust on behalf of Fernando Salinas, will continue to provide services to Laredo and Webb County.

In December of 2008, Mr. Salinas was honored as a "Paul Harris Fellow". He also worked heavily with the South Texas Food Bank and helped start Kids Cafes in El Cenizo, Rio Bravo and at the Main Boys and Girls Club in Laredo. He renovated the main building and set up an endowment for its maintenance for one million dollars. He has continued his philanthropic efforts with all organizations and institutions qualifying as 501 agencies in the community and completed the renovation of the Saint Anthony de Padua Chapel at St. Augustine High School. In 2008, he pledged one million dollars to Texas A&M International University for its College of Business Administration.

At the time of his passing, his trust had initiated his contract for Laredo property that will serve as an off campus site of Laredo Community College. The property, a landmark home, will house special events, small classes and receptions, and allow for easier registration and information.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplish-

ments, and commitment of the late Fernando "Chito" Salinas.

HONORING NICOLLE AMOS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Nicolle Amos, a nurse practitioner in Mason City, Iowa. Nicolle was recently named the Iowa Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Established in 1985, the AANP was the first national organization to organize and advocate for issues affecting nurse practitioners. It currently serves eleven different regions and represents over 135,000 nurse practitioners in the United States. In addition to promoting education and research, the AANP advocates at all levels of government to shape various health policies and to recognize "NPs as providers of high-quality, cost-effective, and personalized healthcare." The AANP gives the Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award to a nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in their area of practice.

Nicolle has a degree as a family nurse practitioner as well as a master's degree in nursing. She worked for seven years as a registered nurse before becoming a nurse practitioner. In November 2005, Nicolle opened her own practice, North Iowa Family Health Care. Although initially staffed only by herself, Nicolle now employs three other individuals—a receptionist, a medical assistant and a licensed practical nurse. She sees an average of 13–16 patients every day, and on Wednesdays she provides health services to local jail inmates. She believes that "God gives you a purpose in life," and that that purpose is to meet her patients' needs to the best of her ability.

I commend Nicolle on the hard work and quality of care she is providing to her patients in Iowa. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for the receipt of this award. I wish nothing but success and happiness to Nicolle, her husband Matt, and children Olivia and John.

RECOGNIZING PHARMACY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize pharmacy's contribution to the American health care system. This week, over 300 members of the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy leaders and pharmacy company executives—are here on Capitol Hill for the Third Annual National Association of Chain Drug Stores RxIMPACT Day.

These important health care providers are here to urge Congress to recognize the value

of pharmacists and promote access to these medication experts throughout our health care delivery system.

Nearly all Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy, making pharmacists one of our most accessible health care provider groups. As my colleagues know, one of the most important functions of local pharmacies is to assist individuals in the communities where they operate with their health care needs. While the convenient, safe and efficient dispensing of prescription medicines is a core function of the modern neighborhood pharmacy—and one they take very seriously—pharmacies do much more that positively impacts the lives of their customers and patients. Today's pharmacies offer a variety of preventive health care services including immunizations and vaccinations, health screening services, disease management services and routine advice on the best and most effective over-the-counter products for patients' specific needs. Americans trust their neighborhood pharmacies to provide these services, which is one reason pharmacists have ranked in the top three each of the past eight years in Gallup's annual survey of integrity across all professions.

As the face of neighborhood health care, pharmacies across the nation offer these and other cost-saving programs and services to help patients take medicines they need to achieve positive results from appropriate use of their medications.

Today, I celebrate the value of pharmacy and support efforts to protect access to neighborhood pharmacies and utilize pharmacies to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care.

CONGRATULATING THE STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as it marks its 20th anniversary.

Twenty years ago, the SEF was established as a semi-official organization with the mission of negotiating with mainland Chinese authorities. Soon thereafter, China established its own Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). These two organizations have enabled officials from their respective governments to negotiate directly without affirming each other's sovereign status.

Despite the suspension of negotiations for nearly a decade, SEF-ARATS talks resumed in Beijing in June 2008. The subsequent talks held in Taipei, Nanjing, Taichung, and Chongqing resulted in several agreements designed to promote economic and social relations between the two sides. Taiwan and China established direct flights for shipping and postal services, built a framework for financial cooperation and investment, agreed to increase tourism, and enhanced law enforcement coordination.

I congratulate Taiwan for the achievements of the Straits Exchange Foundation. I look forward to the SEF's continued contributions in cultivating peace and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait for many years to come.